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## ST. LUCIA ISLAND.

*Reports from Castries—Sanitary conditions good.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Maylie reports, April 27 and May 4:  
Weeks ended April 25 and May 2.

The sanitary condition of this port and vicinity is good; no quarantinable diseases exist.

## SYRIA.

*Report from Beirut—Measures recommended at meeting of consular corps for preventing introduction of cholera into Palestine and Syria by returning pilgrims—Origin of cholera outbreak at Jiddah.*

Consul Ravndal reports, April 21:

The meeting of the consular corps at Beirut, which was called at my request, did not result in any radical steps being taken, but it probably accomplished its purpose, viz, calling the serious attention of the Supreme Board of Health at Constantinople to the unprotected condition of Palestine and Syria in the face of the new dangers from cholera created by the Mecca railway, and to the absolute necessity of a modern quarantine station at Medain Saleh as the only effective safeguard against the spreading of the epidemic into Syria, and from here into Europe and possibly America.

There has been as yet no outbreak of cholera in Palestine and Syria resulting from the present pilgrimage or otherwise during 1908.

Some of the consuls-general felt reluctant to join in protests or recommendations affecting the vilayet of Syria, as the consuls of those powers (Italy, for instance) at Damascus are independent of their colleagues at Beirut.

It is probably too late to secure any real safeguards. The latest reports received from Haifa and Damascus in reference to cholera show that the epidemic is causing numerous deaths at Medain Saleh, and that the necessary equipment with which to cope with the situation is not available.

The American consular agent at Damascus reports, under date of February 24, that about two months and a half ago cholera was brought to Jiddah by Russian Moslem pilgrims who visited Mecca. The medical commission of Damascus provided measures to be adopted against the disease, to the effect that Mecca pilgrims on leaving Medina should undergo a quarantine of five days at Bir Osman, in its vicinity, and of ten days at Medain Saleh, on the borders of the vilayet, and that on their arrival at Kadem, the first station of the Hedjaz railway line from Damascus, all those who were not Damascenes should not communicate with Damascus, and should be immediately sent, if necessary, to the lazaretto at Beirut. The Damascus pilgrims are required to undergo a medical visit at Kadem before entering the city of Damascus.

The conductor of the haj wired February 1 that the Mecca caravan left Mecca in good sanitary condition, and left Hadaya February 19 in the same condition, and that the pilgrims were expected to arrive February 23 at Medain Saleh. Such being the case, the pilgrims will reach Radam on March 7 or 8.

The American consular agent at Damascus reported further on, March 2, that the Mecca pilgrims reached on the same day the quarantine at Medain Saleh, and from the time of their arrival to February 27 the number of cases and deaths were on an average of 5 cases and 5 deaths per day. From February 28 to March 1, inclusive, 37 cases and 22 deaths from cholera were reported.

#### VENEZUELA.

*Decree by the President of Venezuela and sanitary measures prescribed April 18, 1908, relative to epidemic in La Guaira.*

ARTICLE 1. For a period of fifteen days from this date on the respective authorities of La Guaira shall not permit the forwarding of merchandise in any form whatever to Caracas or to any part of the Republic.

ART. 2. During these fifteen days the import and export traffic shall be effected through the Puerto Cabello custom-house.

ART. 3. The La Guaira Board of Health and the bacteriologist shall make during these fifteen days a thorough investigation of the disease and submit a detailed report to the Federal Executive.

ART. 4. The governor of the western section of the Federal district shall immediately enact all the measures necessary for the hygiene and complete sanitation of the port of La Guaira. The 9 patients and their respective families shall be transferred to the Cape Blanco lazaretto, as also the cases that may hereafter take place.

ART. 5. The ministers of the interior and finance are intrusted with the fulfilment of this decree.

In accordance with article 4 of the decree, the governor of the western section of the Federal district of Venezuela issued the following orders under date of April 18, 1908:

The prefect of the Vargas department is hereby directed to act with all the energy, activity, and efficiency that the case demands in order that not only the houses where cases of the epidemic now existing in the port of La Guaira have taken place, but all and every one of the houses existing in said port be disinfected and that this sanitary measure be repeated daily for a period of fifteen days. The greatest cleanliness is likewise hereby ordered for all public buildings and private dwellings, making this rule compulsory on the owners if necessary. The prefect of the department shall organize a complete force for thoroughly cleaning the city and public buildings, and for the washing, at least twice a day, of all its streets. By separate regulations, measures will be enforced for the complete extinction of the epidemic.

*Report from Caracas—Plague at La Guaira—Quarantine measures.*

The following is received from Minister Russell, under date of April 23:

There seems to be no doubt now of the existence of bubonic plague in La Guaira, although the official decree to that effect has not been issued. The health board of La Guaira has reported that the suspicious disease is plague. All the cases have been isolated in the Leper Hospital and rigorous sanitary measures are being taken. La Guaira will be quarantined for 15 days counting from April 18.